

ST. **Method of Folding Plate-like Elements, More Particularly Cardboard Articles,
and Device Therefor**

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Technical Field

The present invention relates to a method of folding plate-like elements, more particularly cardboard articles. In addition, the present invention relates to a device for implementing the method of folding plate-like elements.

Prior Art

Plate-like elements, such as cardboard articles for instance, have manifold applications, such as, for example, the packaging of items. During packaging the cardboard articles need to be folded as a rule so as to enclose the item being packaged with the cardboard articles.

Known from prior art are methods for folding cardboard articles as are the corresponding devices in which juxtaposed cardboard sections are folded along a fold line, with fixed or movable counter-impression elements being in contact along the fold line and at least one cardboard section being folded about the axis of the fold line.

These known methods and devices for folding cardboard articles firstly have the disadvantage that the counter-impression elements are still located in the interior of the folded element after folding and thus need to be removed therefrom. In addition, the element to be folded and/or the counter-impression elements need to be travelled and controlled such that they come into contact with each other during folding, which adds to the complexity of the method and the device for folding.

More particularly, where a great many folding actions need to be implemented in sequence, this is often done in a continuous operation (on the fly), i.e. the items to be folded are guided one after the other during folding operations through the folding device.

However, when working in a continuous operation the arrangement of counter-impression elements is a particular disadvantage since the aforementioned